Message Text

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P 161923Z APR 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: AODE, EWWT, JA

SUBJECT:MODE - COAST GUARD INSPECTOR IN JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 4450

- 1. AS WE UNDERSTAND, EMBASSY;S PROPOSAL IS THAT COAST GUARD INSPECTOR MIGHT SERVE IN HIROSHIMA AREA, CARRY OFFICIAL PASSPORT, HAVE AN INDEFINITE VISA AND MIGHT BE IMMUNE FROM CIVIL OR CRIMINAL ACTION IN JAPAN FOR HIS OFFICIAL ACTS. COAST GUARD HAS SENT OFFICER ON TEMPORARY DUTY BECAUSE OF PRESSING NEED TO GET ON WITH JOB. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO PROCEED WITH A PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- 2. BY BEING HIGHLY SELECTIVE COAST GUARD BELIEVES IT COULD FILL POST WITH OFFICER WITHOUT CHILDREN, WHO BY DOING SUCH THINGS AS PURCHASING CAR ALREADY REGISTERED IN JAPAN FROM DEPARTING SERVICEMAN, COULD CARRY OUT HIS OFFICIAL FUNCTION PROPERLY IN SUCH STATUS. THIS IS, HOWEVER, LIKELY TO ESTABLISH PRECEDENT FOR INSPECTOR OUTSIDE TOKYO AREA, A FUNCTION LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOME TIME. WHILE THIS WOULD BE AGREEABLE IF COAST GUARD

WILLING ACCEPT THIS STATUS WE WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY STATUS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN "NON-DIPLOMATIC" WORK IN JAPAN, IN AND OUTSIDE TOKYO.

3. WHAT DOES THE PHRASE "IMMUNITY OF STATE ORGAN FROM SUIT" MEAN? DOES THIS PROVIDE OFFICIAL IMMUNITY STATUS FOR SUCH FOREIGN PERSONNEL IN JAPAN OR IS IT SIMPLY THE EXISTENCE OF A RIGHT TO ASSERT PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL TASK AS A LEGAL DEFENSE? WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT SEEMING RESTRICTIVENESS INHERENT IN USE "NON-DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS." UNDER THE VIENNA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS CON-VENTION OF 1961. DIPLOMATIC ACTS ARE BROADLY DEFINED AS MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY WITH ANOTHER STATE, PROMOTION OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS INCLUDING THE DEVELOP-MENT OF ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC RELATIONSHIPS, NEGOTIATIONS AND THE ASCERTAINMENT BY LAWFUL MEANS OF THE CONDITIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HOST STATE. WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO ENCOURAGE A RESTRICTIVE INTERPRETATION OF THESE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION IN THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE OR IN A BROADER CONTEXT.

4. APPRECIATE EARLY RESPONSE. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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